

House File 117 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 117

BY DEYOE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prohibiting the hunting or taking of cougars and making
2 penalties applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 481A.49 Cougars.

2 The commission shall not establish a season for hunting
3 cougars.

4 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 481B.5A Cougars — taking prohibited.

5 1. A person shall not take or attempt to take a cougar.

6 2. This section does not prohibit any of the following:

7 a. A person acting to carry out an order issued by a court.

8 b. A licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine as
9 provided in chapter 169.

10 c. An action to protect private property from damage as
11 provided by rules adopted by the department. The action may
12 be conducted by the department of natural resources, including
13 a wild animal depredation biologist, or by an agricultural
14 producer suffering financial losses from the destruction of
15 livestock.

16 d. A person reasonably acting to protect a person from
17 injury or death caused by a cougar.

18 EXPLANATION

19 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
20 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

21 This bill provides that a person is prohibited from taking
22 or attempting to take a cougar. A taking includes wounding,
23 killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting (Code section
24 481B.1). The bill provides for a number of exceptions.
25 A person violating the prohibition is guilty of a simple
26 misdemeanor (Code section 481B.10). A simple misdemeanor is
27 punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days or a fine of
28 at least \$65 but not more than \$625 or by both.